

FOI 0184-18 DIGEST

From: [FCO]
Sent: 12 February 2018 19:36
To: [FCO]
Subject: Re: FW: Quotes from Greg Clarke

QFA are putting it together tomorrow and promised to send it round to all for sight first.

[REDACTED] at QFA knows Ajay quote coming too to add to it.
[REDACTED]

On 12 Feb 2018 7:16 pm [FCO] wrote:

Hey, please can we discuss tomorrow? I'll make up a quote for Ajay but who's putting out the press release and are we likely to see it first?

From: [THE FA]
Sent: 12 February 2018 19:14
To: [FCO]
Subject: FW: Quotes from Greg Clarke

Hi [REDACTED]

Apologies for the delay. We understand there may be one single press release for Wednesday, but as yet we have not had sight of anything. However, Greg has agreed the quotes below.

With kind regards
[REDACTED]

From: [THE FA]
Sent: 12 February 2018 14:18
To: [QFA]
Subject: Quotes from Greg Clarke

Both

Please see below.

If you are producing one release only, they may need adapting slightly, just let me know.

Grateful for copy of the draft release today, as we are on a plane all tomorrow.

Many thanks.

[REDACTED]

Qatar FA MoU signing: "The FA is pleased to commit to this knowledge-sharing partnership with the Qatar Football Association. We have a long history of collaboration with various national associations to share knowledge and experience to support the development of football. For Qatar, developing the game across the country is a key objective as they approach the hosting of the FIFA World Cup in 2022".

SC MoU: "The FA is pleased to support the work of the Supreme Committee as they look beyond the World Cup in 2022 and consider its legacy. One area of this legacy is increasing football participation, and as we know well in England, this is highly reliant on the provision of facilities. We look forward to sharing our experiences in this area.

"The second element of our agreement is in support of the Generation Amazing initiatives which address social issues in countries through football. We hope that this will provide some rewarding opportunities particularly for young people developing their coaching and their leadership skills".

From: [FCO]

Sent: 11 February 2018 14:44

To: [FCO]

Subject: This week in Qatar - w/c 11 February

Dear Colleagues,

Highlights from Doha this week:-

Political

[REDACTED]

- Preparations and media planning for visits of Greg Clarke (14 February),
- English FA Chairman Greg Clarke will visit on 14 February to sign two MOUs with the Qatar Football Association and the Supreme Committee, with grassroots football and training exchanges at the core of both. Within the agreements is a commitment play friendly matches at all age groups, for both men and women's teams. Greg Clarke will visit Aspire sports complex, an under construction stadium and have bilaterals with both the President of the QFA and Secretary General of the Supreme Committee.

[REDACTED]

Best wishes,

From: [FCO]
Sent: 06 February 2018 08:51
To: [FCO]
Subject: FW: 14 Feb programme

They need to leave to airport at 1700 (1930 flight) so we either have the HMA meeting in SC room [REDACTED] or I ask them to finish at 1600, be back here for 1615 and then Embassy car to depart at 1700.

The risk is it overruns and doesn't actually finish until 1630 anyway in West Bay.....

From: [SCDL]
Sent: 05 February 2018 14:35
To: [FCO]
Cc: [QFA]
Subject: RE: England shirts

Dear [REDACTED]

Draft schedule below. Apologies I should have shared this with you earlier.
I understand that Mr. Clarke will also visit the Embassy before leaving for the airport.
The timings below of course can change and we could finish the whole program around 16:00.
Let me know what you think. If the below is risky, then we could start a bit later with the site visits-for instance we can at 09:45 the visit to Khalifa.

FA Chairman Greg Clarke-Visit to Doha 14 February 2018

09:00-10:00	Stadium Visit-Khalifa International
10:30-12:00	Aspire Zone Tour
12:30-13:30	Meeting with QFA President and MOU signing (Al Bidda-QFA-36 th Floor) QFA President/Secretary General & H.M Ambassador Sharma
13:30-14:30	Lunch (QFA-36 th Floor) QFA President/Secretary General & H.M Ambassador Sharma (TBC)
14:40-15:30	SC MOU Signing ceremony (29 th Floor) Secretary General & H.M Ambassador Sharma (TBC)
15:30-16:30	Legacy Pavilion Tour and WW presentation (14 th Floor) Secretary General

From: [FCO]
Sent: Sunday, February 04, 2018 11:09 AM
To: [QFA][SCDL]
Subject: RE: England shirts

Thanks for the swift reply. I think we'll go for all family names, and [REDACTED] responded separately for Al-Thawadi.

[REDACTED]
From: [QFA]
Sent: 04 February 2018 08:34
To: [FCO][SCDL]
Subject: RE: England shirts

Hey buddy!

I think for SC GS "Hassan" would be perfect

And for Sheikh Hamad it would be "Al-Thani"

Thanks bud! Have a great day.

Kind regards,

From: [FCO]
Sent: 04 February 2018 10:55
To: [FA]
Cc:
Subject: RE: England shirts

Hi [REDACTED]

Excellent. I've updated your email below with the names for the back of the shirts (after soliciting some discreet feedback).

Thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [FA]
Sent: 02 February 2018 16:04
To: [FCO]
Cc:
Subject: England shirts

Hi [REDACTED]

We will bring some England shirts with names on the back for presentation, with the number 22. Can you let us which abbreviations of the names would be best?

1. SC CEO Hassan Al-Thawadi – AL-THAWADI (no spaces either side of the hyphen)
2. QFA President Shk. Hamad Bin Khalifa al-Thani – AL-THANI (no spaces either side of the hyphen)
3. HM Ambassador Ajay Sharma - SHARMA

Many thanks, and I look forward to hearing from you.

[REDACTED]

From: [FCO]]

Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2018 8:13 AM

To: [SC] [QFA]

Subject: FW: England shirts

Morning!

Hope you both had a good weekend. A quick question via [REDACTED]. She will be bringing a “surprise” gift but wants to ensure they are correct. What should the names be on the back? Hyphen or no hyphen?

1. SC Sec Gen Hassan Al-Thawadi – “Al-Thawadi” or “Hassan” ?
2. QFA President Shk. Hamad Bin Khalifa al-Thani – “Al-Thani”

Thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [FCO]

Sent: 08 February 2018 08:13

To: [FA]

Subject: RE: Programme for 14th February

Hi

[REDACTED]

Let me know if you need anything else!

Thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [FA]

Sent: 07 February 2018 21:03

To: [FCO]

Subject: RE: Programme for 14th February

Hi

[REDACTED]

Furthermore, we are currently attending a FIFA event in Muscat, [REDACTED], which means that we will have two evenings in Doha. Personally I think this is much better and we can maximise our time with you all, but I suspect has caused a few issues at your end!

[REDACTED]

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

From: [FCO]

Sent: 29 January 2018 13:39

To: [FA]

Subject: RE: Programme for 14th February

Dear [REDACTED]

I saw both [REDACTED] separately last week on the visit and wider business. So I know rough elements – dinner on 13th (Ajay to come), and then Aspire, Khalifa Stadium, separate MOU signings / bilaterals, WC Pavillion tour. I'll be with you for all of it. Any sight of timings would be great! Until I have that, I can't confirm Ajay but he has blocked out the whole day for this so I don't foresee a problem him being with you most of the day. I've also booked an Embassy vehicle so getting around won't be a issue as you have two leads.

I've answered of your questions below in various levels of detail but happy to have a chat in greater detail tomorrow or Wednesday if I've missed anything.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [FA]

Sent: 29 January 2018 15:20

To: [FCO]

Subject: Programme for 14th February

Dear [REDACTED]

I had a good conversation with [REDACTED] this morning and the programme seems to be taking shape well. Are you up to speed and do you know where you will be factored in? I also wanted to ask:-

1. Will the Ambassador be in town? Would there be the opportunity of a call on the Embassy / private meeting at the end of the day before we leave for the Airport? I gather our official programme will conclude at 3.30pm but we do not fly until 7.30pm. We would like to put that time to good use if at all possible. I've booked you in for 1600 for you on 14th (but tell [REDACTED] it's 1530 to give you a buffer). Then 30 mins to airport from Embassy so plenty of time.
2. Would a quote from the Ambassador or FCO be possible in terms of the Press Release? It would be good for us to be able to show that we are working in tandem with the HMG agenda. Absolutely. I've copied [REDACTED] who can assist with quotes.

3. What is the normal protocol on gift-giving? [REDACTED] We are thinking more about pennants and England shirts with names on the back for the main people. Any guidance appreciated. I think pennants and /or shirts would be great, maybe with the squad number as 22. The SC will either give you a glossy book of the story so far, or a box which has medals in that signifies the stadiums announced to date. But small items to give are best – you'll have to carry at least four I think (SC Sec Gen and Dep Sec Gen; QFA President and QFA Gen Sec). [REDACTED]

4. In terms of briefing Greg, if there is anything to particularly note about Qatar – the country, the current issues, the people we will meet, lines to take – I would appreciate your guidance. On key messages, I spoke to Ajay about this last week. We agreed that in all you meetings, the three key messages to get across are which will really resonate: i) We are fully behind the 2022 World Cup in Qatar and hope it will be a great success ii) We are here to support you in any way we can to make it a huge success, and these MOUs demonstrate that iii) we are impressed with what we have seen so far. [REDACTED]

Thank you in advance, I look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes.

[REDACTED]

From: [FCO]
Sent: 21 January 2018 16:08
To: [FCO INTERNAL]
Subject: This week in Qatar - w/c 21 January

Dear Colleagues,

Highlights from Doha this week:

Political

- [REDACTED]
- Discussions with Qatar Football Association and Supreme Committee (World Cup Organisers) ahead of English FA Chairman, Greg Clarke, visit in mid Feb.

[REDACTED]

Best wishes,

From: [FCO]
Sent: 18 January 2018 10:27
To: [FA]
Subject: RE: Worker Welfare

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for the flight details. 1700 on 14th to depart for the airport so a full day. [REDACTED] are talking on the SC / QFA elements of the programme – it will be a week or so before you see specific timings, if not early Feb. But all your requests will be accommodated. Likewise with the hotel, but it will be a very nice five star one in West Bay.

[REDACTED]

Thanks

[REDACTED]
From: [FA]
Sent: 17 January 2018 19:59
To: [FCO]
Subject: RE: Worker Welfare

Hi [REDACTED]

Our schedule is as follows (subject to confirmation [REDACTED]):

[REDACTED]

Dinner with Qatar FA/Supreme Committee
Hotel TBC

14th Feb
All day in Doha

Doha – Abu Dhabi (via Muscat)
1930-0055+1 Qatar and Etihad Airways
Hotel - TBC

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] is working on populating the day, liaising so far with my colleague [REDACTED]. He says he is in touch with the QFA and Embassy. We haven't had any news on hotel or programme yet.

[REDACTED]

From: [FCO]
Sent: 17 January 2018 16:34
To: [FA]
Subject: Worker Welfare

Hi [REDACTED]

Happy New Year and I hope you had a nice break. Two questions. Do you know when you will fly out of Doha just so we know a window for the programme.

Finally, I know you want to look at the worker welfare piece. Is that on stadium safety, accommodation standards or health monitoring? There's quite a few bits to it so whatever element you would like to see the SC will make it happen in the short time you are here

Thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [QFA]
Sent: 16 January 2018 06:06
To: [FA]
Cc: [FCO]
Subject: Follow up on MOU Content

Hi [REDACTED]

I hope this finds you well, and I hope you're having a great start to the year! I just wanted to touch base with you in order to get some feedback [REDACTED] on February 14th

[REDACTED]

I look forward to seeing you in Doha soon, and if I can be of any assistance to you as we prepare for the visit, please let me know 😊

All the best.

Kind regards,

From: [FCO]

Sent: 28 December 2017 12:57

To: [QFA]

Subject: Gregg Clarke visit - mid Feb

Importance: High

Hi [REDACTED]

I got an email just before Christmas from [REDACTED] – looks like she and Greg Clarke will be coming to Doha on 13 or 14 Feb. She suggested 14 Feb but then as it's National Sports Day on 13 Feb, that would symbolically be amazing to sign the QFA MOU (and SC one they are drafting), plus see all the Aspire activities you guys put on. I've left that thought with her [REDACTED] is on leave until 15 January so we have a bit of time.

What do you think to them coming on 13 Feb? I know it's a national holiday but do you think the President would be keen to link the two? Have you also had any further contact with the FA about starting a plan of activities based on the MOU – would be good to announce something around the visit too.

If you are free, we can discuss this a bit more next week – Tues or Wed?

Thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [FA]
Sent: 07 December 2017 11:53
To: [FCO]
Subject: RE: English FA [REDACTED] introductions

Hi [REDACTED]

Just by way of feedback to say that I met [REDACTED] and the expectation is of two MoU's to be signed early next year. I advised him that I think we will slip into February [REDACTED].

So this is a brief summary of where we are. I am meeting [REDACTED] on Friday by way of SCDL follow up.

[REDACTED]

So thank you again, and I will keep you in touch with developments and provisional dates as they arise.

[REDACTED]

From: [FCO]
Sent: 05 December 2017 05:02
To: [FA]
Subject: RE: English FA [REDACTED] introductions

Dear [REDACTED]

Good to hear from you.

[REDACTED]

So I think January, even late January, might be a stretch for the Qataris, but I can use this with [REDACTED] if you would like me to too ensure we have a target date to work to. As for the programme, I would happily lead on that for you working with both organisations so you get to see all sides. I think they would offer you a tour of the finished Khalifa stadium (which is attached to Aspire), one of the ones being constructed, and something around worker welfare. We could link the elements of the visit to what the Qataris have asked for in co-operation.

[REDACTED]

I'm at a conference all day so WhatsApp me [REDACTED] if you have any further questions. And I hope to see you in January!

Thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [FA]
Sent: 04 December 2017 21:02
To: [FCO]
Subject: RE: English FA [REDACTED] introductions

Dear [REDACTED]

I thought I would drop you both a line to keep you up to date with developments. [REDACTED], I have some particularly questions for you.

[REDACTED]

Our Chairman, Greg Clarke, [REDACTED] has volunteered to come [REDACTED] in January. However, we are not yet sure January is achievable or even desirable – it may be a bit premature. I will know more shortly.

[REDACTED]

So, [REDACTED], the question is whether there is any advice you would have regarding our approach to Qatar – [REDACTED]. Secondly, if we come to Qatar, what do you think the itinerary should comprise? Should we be asking to view workers' conditions in addition to World Cup venues such as a stadium or training ground? Thirdly, would you advise making totally separate visits to each country as opposed to trying to combine visits [REDACTED]

Anything you think I should bring up or be aware of ahead of tomorrow's meeting would be very useful, and any guidance on how to play it. Basically, I don't want to put my foot in it!

[REDACTED]

From: [FCO]

Sent: 16 October 2017 14:06

To: [FA]

Subject: English FA [REDACTED] introductions

Hi [REDACTED]

It was good to catch up with you earlier. [REDACTED]

For a proposed visit, Eid Al Fitr is around 14th June with Ramadan begins around 15th May so I suggest anytime up until end of April 2018 if you and the FA Chairman were to visit the region. And early April being QBP season!

[REDACTED]

Thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [FCO]
Sent: 27 November 2017 10:28
To: [FCO INTERNAL]
Cc:
Subject: Qatar: Football Focus: meeting with the QFA, 23 Nov

Ajay

1. Myself and [REDACTED] had a catch up last Thursday with [REDACTED] at the Qatar Football Association (QFA).

English FA

2. The President of the QFA, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa bin Ahmed al-Thani, met with FA Chairman Greg Clarke in London in early October to finalise a close partnership across the football spectrum. They agreed to begin collaboration on football education, with aim of signing an FA to FA MOU in the near future. [REDACTED] told me Greg Clarke had accepted Sheikh Hamad's offer to host him in Qatar before the end of March [REDACTED]

Comment

6. I'll follow up with both QFA and FA to ensure they something concrete materialised soon otherwise the FA Chairman visit will just be another pleasant chat.. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
